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Shipments of Montana products reach important markets

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Shipments of Montana products of farm, forest, and mines are reaching important markets both to the east and on the west coast, according to Montana Business, monthly publication of Montana State University's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

The article, by Dr. William S. Peters of the School of Business, compares the pattern of interstate rail shipments of basic products from Montana with Wyoming and Idaho, and presents figures on changes in the destinations of Montana's shipments from 1939 to 1954.

"Of particular interest," the article states, "is the division of Montana's exports between west coast states and those lying to the east." Approximately one-quarter of the tonnage of all outgoing rail shipments from Montana is now moving to the three west coast states. In wheat and cattle and calves this proportion is found to be 31 and 37 per cent respectively, a considerable increase over the same percentages in 1939. In fact, the leading single state of destination for shipments of cattle and calves seems now to be California, which receives almost one-quarter of Montana's shipments.

Outgoing wheat shipments average 807 miles, cattle and calves, 1027; lumber, shingles, and lath, 1445; and pulpwood, 1225 miles, according to Dr. Peters.

After examining the shipment patterns for Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and the recent changes in the destination of Montana's rail shipments, the article concludes that "for a number of vital export markets Montana now looks both east and west and that among the northern tier of Mountain States this position is in many respects unique."

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